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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

OF THE

RESULT OF SEVERAL ASSAYS AT THAT ESTABLISHMENT,

ON THE

GOLD AND SILVER COINS OF FOREIGN NATIONS,

MADE

CURRENT BY THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 9, 1818.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the Table.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY E. DE KRAFFT.

1818.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

December 8th, 1818.

SIR,

In obedience to the act, entitled "An act regulating the currency within the United States, of the gold coin of Great Britain, France, Portugal, and Spain, and the crowns of France, and five franc pieces," passed the 29th of April, 1816. I have the honor to transmit herewith a Report of the Director of the mint, giving the result of sundry assays made in pursuance of instructions from this department.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

*The Honorable the Speaker
of the House of Representatives.*



(Copy.)

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

5th December, 1818.

SIR,

Agreeably to the general directions contained in your letter of the 20th January last, I have caused assays to be made of the several species of foreign gold and silver coins, made current in the United States, by an act of Congress passed the 29th April, 1816.

The result of the assayer's report, is as follows:

	car. grs.
Gold coins of Great Britain, made of 2 pieces (guineas)	22 0
Ditto - - - - - 3 ditto (sovereigns)	22 0
Ditto of Portugal - - - - - 5 ditto, barely	22 0
Ditto of France - - - - - 5 ditto (XX francs)	21 $2\frac{3}{8}$
Ditto of Spain - - - - - 5 ditto - - -	20 $3\frac{1}{8}$
	oz. dwts. grs.
Silver coins of France, made of 5 pieces (crowns)	10 18 18
Ditto - - - - - 5 ditto (V francs)	10 16 00

From the above it appears,

1. That as the gold coins of Great Britain and of Portugal, are of the same quality with those of the United States, their intrinsic value will be at the rate of 100 cents for 27 grains, as regulated by law.
2. That the intrinsic value of the gold coins of France, will be at the rate of 100 cents for $27\frac{351}{91}$ grains, or one dollar in 34.55, worse than their legal value.
3. That the intrinsic value of the gold coins of Spain, will be at the rate of 100 cents for $28\frac{76}{133}$ grains, or one dollar in 399, worse than their legal value.
4. That the intrinsic value of the silver French crowns, will be at the rate of $117\frac{8}{10}$ cents per ounce, or $\frac{2}{10}$ of a cent in the ounce better than their legal value.
5. That the intrinsic value of the silver five franc pieces of France, will be at the rate of $116\frac{4}{10}$ cents, nearly, per ounce, or, $\frac{4}{10}$ of a cent, nearly, per ounce, better than their legal value.

It may, however, Sir, be observed, that from long experience of the assayer of the mint, it is found that the quality of foreign coins, especially of silver, is somewhat variable, as will appear by comparing the above report with those of former years: their respective values, therefore, as regulated by the law of 1816, are probably as near their average intrinsic values, as can well be ascertained.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant.

[Signed]

RT. PATTERSON.

*The Honorable Wm. H. Crawford,
Secretary of the Treasury.*

